

Montana Driver Education and Training

Preparing to Operate a Vehicle



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Standards and Benchmarks

2. Responsibility

- a. recognize the importance of making safe and responsible decisions for owning and operating a vehicle
- b. demonstrate the ability to make appropriate decisions while operating a motor vehicle
- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to responsible driving

3. Visual Skills

- a. know proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- b. communicate and explain proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- c. demonstrate the use of proper visual skills for operating a motor vehicle
- d. develop habits and attitudes with regard to proper visual skills

4. Vehicle Control

- a. demonstrate smooth, safe and efficient operation of a motor vehicle
- b. develop habits and attitudes relative to safe, efficient and smooth vehicle operation.

5. Communication

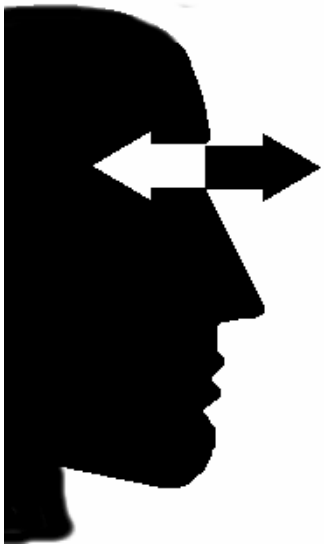
- c. adjust communication (i.e., use of lights, vehicle and personal signals) based on observation of highway transportation system and other users
- d. develop habits and attitudes relative to effective communication

6. Risk Management

- a. understand driver risk-management principles
- b. demonstrate driver risk-management strategies
- c. develop driver risk-management habits and attitudes



Approaching



✓ When parked at the curb

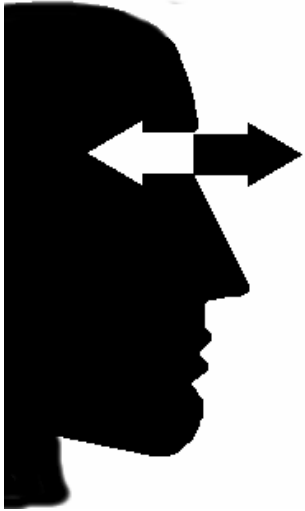
- ☐ Approach from the front of the car
- ☐ Increase awareness of oncoming traffic
- ☐ Approach the driver's door with key in hand

✓ When parked in a parking lot

- ☐ Approach from rear of car
- ☐ Increase awareness of people and objects nearby
- ☐ Approach the driver's door with key in hand



Approaching

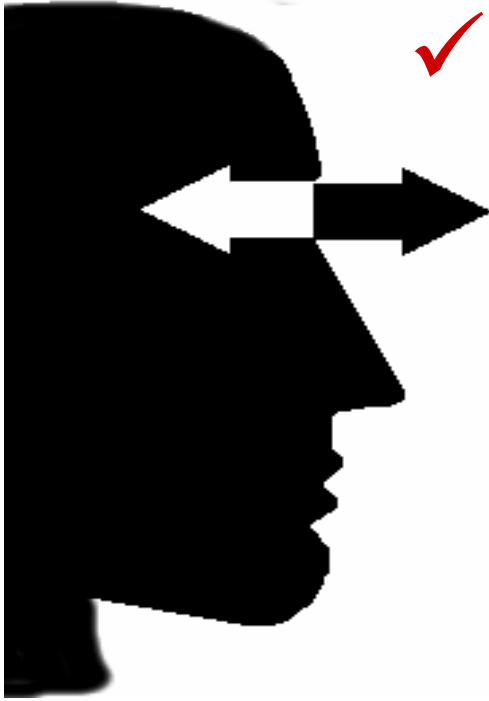


✓ Check around the outside of the vehicle

- ☐ Objects in path of vehicle
- ☐ Unwanted passengers
- ☐ Children, pets
- ☐ Fluid leaks
- ☐ Tire condition
- ☐ Direction front tires are turned (which way will the vehicle move when placed in gear?)
- ☐ Body damage
- ☐ Clean lights



Approaching



✓ **Store valuables in trunk of vehicle**

- ☐ Books and book bags have less chance of slipping off seats
- ☐ The driver education vehicle is a classroom with no room for

- **food, candy and soda**



Entering

- ✓ Check traffic flow of approaching vehicles
- ✓ Unlock doors using electronic device or key
- ✓ Enter the vehicle quickly as possible to avoid conflicts with other traffic flow
- ✓ Check door swing
- ✓ Check passengers for safe entry
- ✓ Lock doors
- ✓ Place key in the ignition

- Keys may be different for trunk, door, ignition



Adjusting the Vehicle

✓ Seating Adjustments



☐ Manual or electronic adjustments

- Adjust for driver's foot pedal and dead pedal position
- Adjust for best visual needs



✓ Head Restraint Adjustment

☐ Protect head and neck injuries

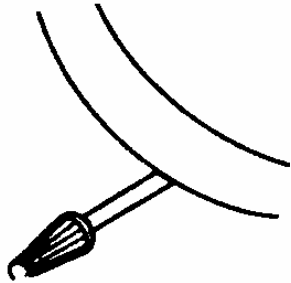
☐ Head restraint position

- Above ears reduces head whiplash
- Below ears increases head whiplash



Steering Wheel

✓ Steering Wheel Adjustments



- ☐ Angle adjustment lever, steering column and height lever
- ☐ Be able to place hands on the top of the steering wheel for safe distance from the airbag
- ☐ Positions for airbag safety
 - Seating position is minimum of 10 inches from wheel
 - Hand positions on steering wheel
 - Beware of airbag deployment venting at 10, 2, and 6 o'clock positions



Mirrors



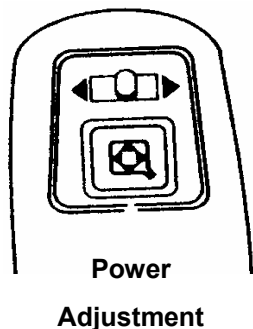
✓ Traditional Settings

- ☐ Able to see the complete rear view window within 200' to the rear of the vehicle
- ☐ Able to make head checks without moving the head—move only the eyes





Mirrors



✓ Mirrors – Power/Manual Adjustments

- ☐ Rearview mirror settings (see 200 feet to the rear)
- ☐ Sideview mirror settings (15 degrees out will enhance side views)
- ☐ May be adjusted to view sides rather than rear view
- ☐ Traditional setting needed when inside mirror view is blocked to rear

✓ Traditional View



✓ BGE Enhanced View

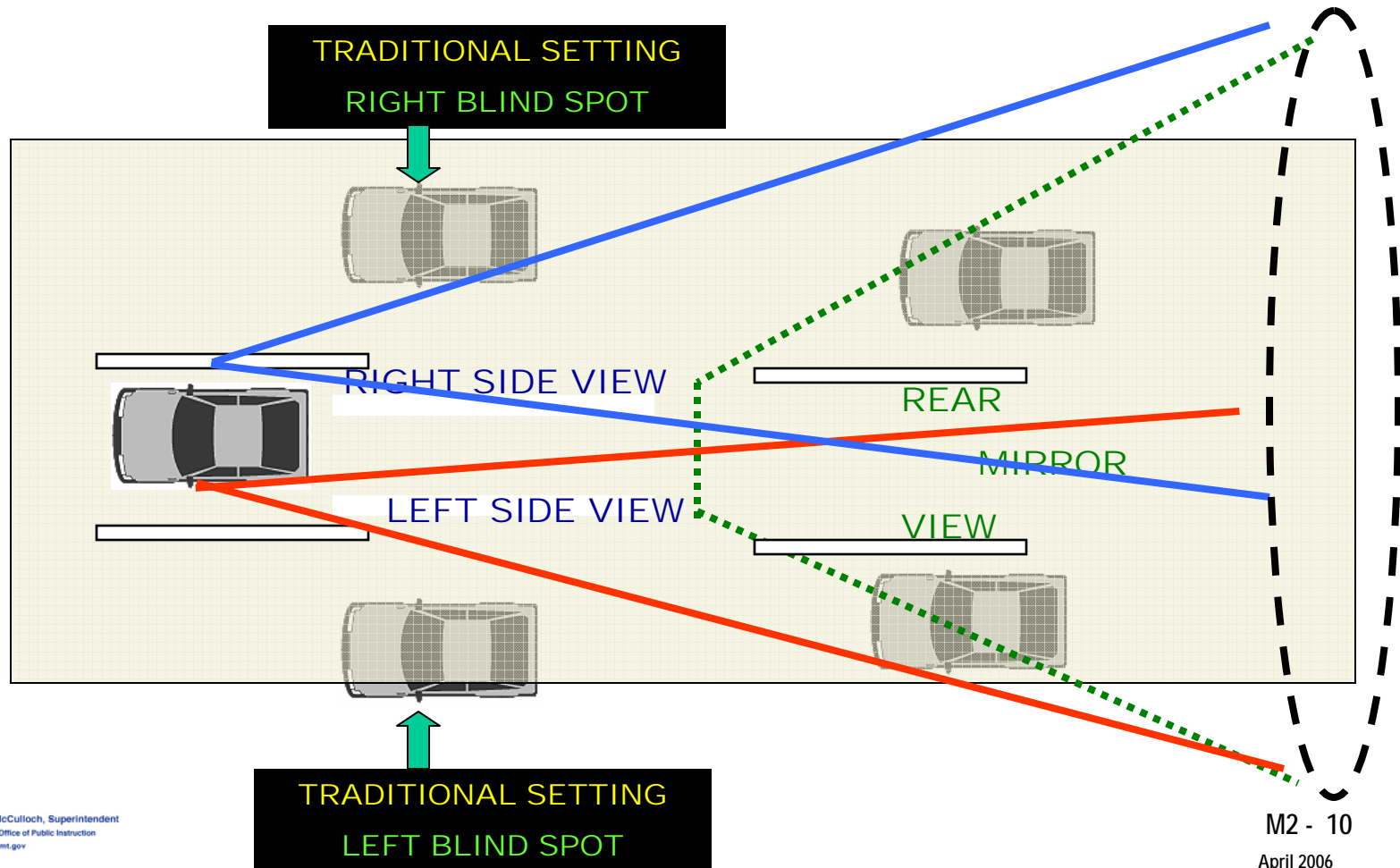


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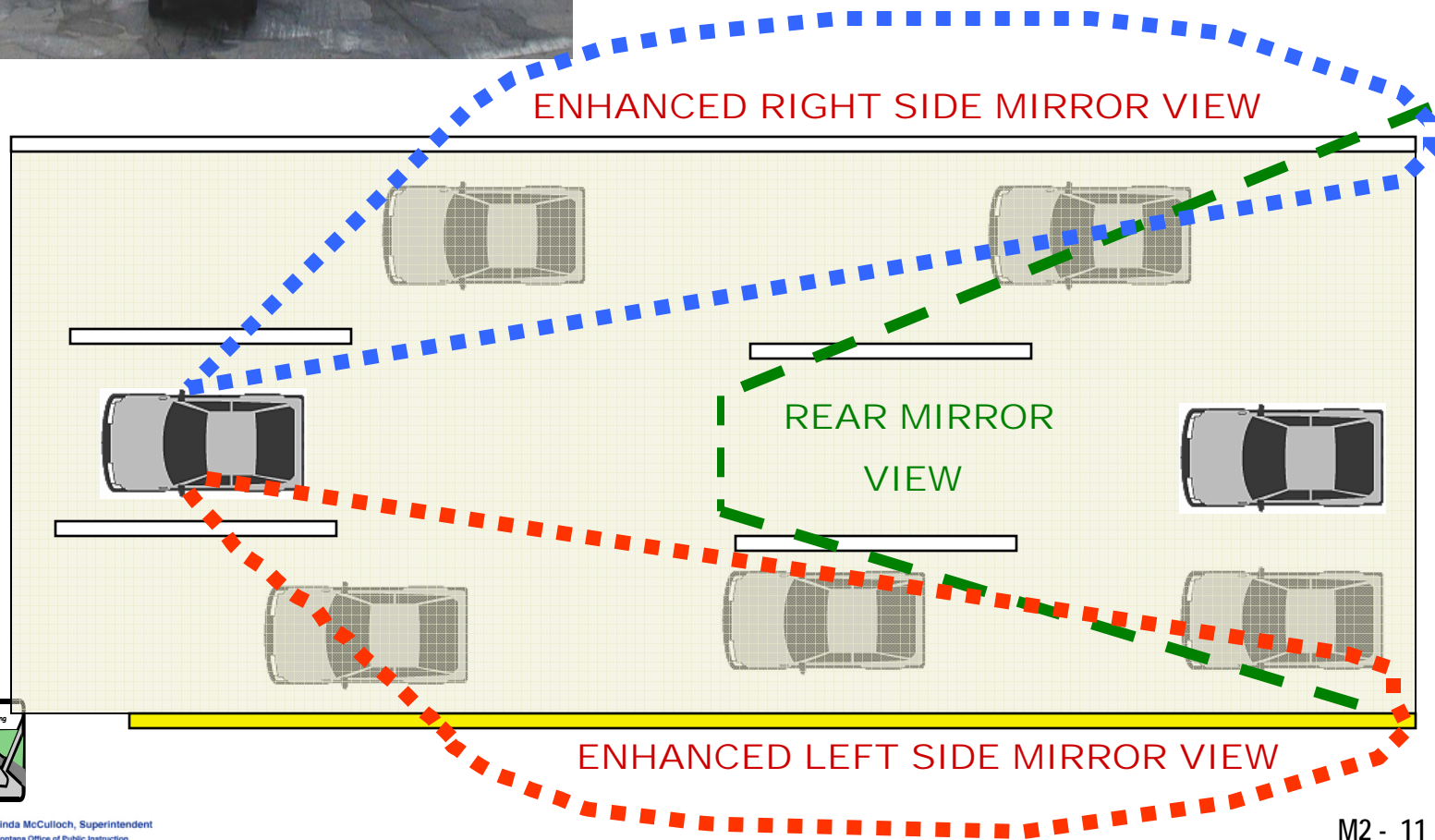
Cones outline the blind areas caused by traditional mirror settings

Traditional side view mirror settings shows same view as rear view mirror





The BGE enhanced side mirror settings (15 degrees to outside) eliminates right and left side mirror blind areas

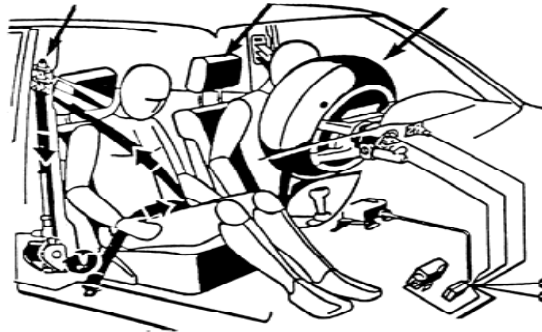


Seatbelts

✓ Seatbelt Adjustments



- ☐ Use lap and shoulder belts properly for best protection
 - Lap belt across boney pelvic area
 - Shoulder belt over collarbone and rib cage
- ☐ Adjustable shoulder belt anchors on pillars
- ☐ Tension relieving device adjustments
- ☐ Check passengers for proper fit and location
 - Passengers under age 12 sit in the rear seat
 - Bolsters and special seats may be required



Foot Pedals



✓ Accelerator pedal

- ☐ Right heel of foot on floor for smooth operation
- ☐ Foot may pivot to and from brake, if pedal position allows
- ☐ Used to maintain, increase, and decrease speed

✓ Brake pedal

- ☐ Heel on floor for smooth operation
- ☐ Foot may pivot to and from accelerator, if pedal position allows
- ☐ Used to maintain or decrease speed



Foot Pedals



✓ Clutch pedal (if equipped)

- ☐ Used in manual shift vehicles
- ☐ Use ankle force with heel on floor, locate friction point for smooth operation

✓ Parking brake pedal (or lever if equipped)

- ☐ Used with foot on floor board
- ☐ Some are hand operated near dash or center console
- ☐ Emphasis on “parking” brake, rather than “emergency” brake
- ☐ Owner’s manual may indicate use before placing into (P)ark

✓ Dead pedal

- ☐ Located to the left of the floorboard, may be just a flat spot
- ☐ Used to maintain driver balance and stability for left foot and leg
- ☐ Allows right leg and foot to use pedals effectively



Steering Wheel Control

✓ Steering movements

- ☐ Amount of steering for changing path of travel varies among vehicles
- ☐ Slow speeds require faster steering movement
- ☐ Faster speeds require slower steering movement
- ☐ Turn right – go right, turn left – go left



Locating and Operating Controls



✓ Cruise/Speed Control (if equipped)

- ☐ Allows vehicle to maintain constant speed

✓ Gear Selector Lever

- ☐ On steering column or center console
- ☐ Press button lever
- ☐ (O)verdrive and (D)rive gear



✓ Ignition Switch

- ☐ On steering column or dashboard
- ☐ On/accessories/start/off/



Control, Information, Comfort, and Safety Devices

✓ Turn Signal Lever

- ☐ Location and use
- ☐ Lane change signal use

✓ Hazard Flashers

- ☐ Location and use

✓ Windshield Wipers and Washers

- ☐ Part of turn signal lever in some vehicles
- ☐ Opposing lever on some vehicles

✓ Headlights / Running Lights

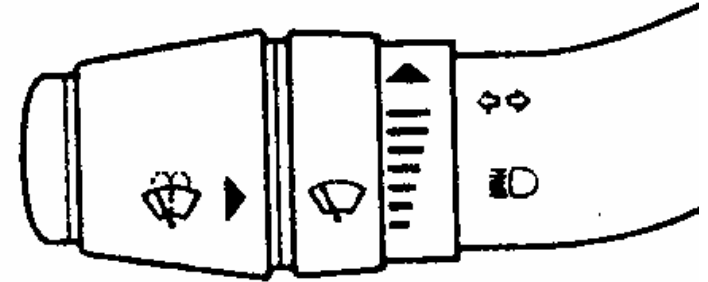
- ☐ Where located and use

✓ Horn

- ☐ Warning device only

✓ Hood Release

- ☐ Sometimes confused with brake release



Control, Information, Comfort, and Safety Devices

✓ Trunk Release (if equipped)

- ☐ Inside trunk - safety release device
- ☐ Location and use

✓ Fuel Door Release (if equipped)

- ☐ Location and use

✓ Sun Visor

- ☐ Driver uses left hand
- ☐ Push away from face for glare protection (crash danger)

✓ Heater/Ventilation/Air Conditioner (HVAC)

- ☐ Three basic controls and their use

✓ Optional Controls



Alert/Warning Symbols and Controls Worksheet



D. THEFT



Alert/Warning Symbols and Controls Worksheet

U.



Z.



EE.



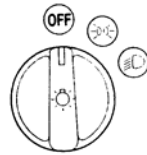
JJ.



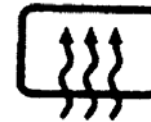
V.



AA.



FF.



KK.



W.



BB.

O/D
OFF

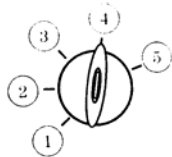
GG.



LL.



X.



CC.



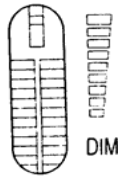
HH.



MM.



Y.



DD.



II.



NN.

ETS
OFF



Control, Information, Comfort, and Safety Devices

Instrument Panel

- ☐ Speedometer
- ☐ Tachometer (if equipped)
- ☐ Odometer
- ☐ Fuel Gauge
- ☐ Temperature
- ☐ Oil Pressure
- ☐ Alternator Charging System
- ☐ Airbag Alert/Warning Light
- ☐ Brake System Warning Light
- ☐ ABS Alert/Warning Light



Note: Location and description for all instruments and features are located in the Vehicle Owner's Manual

Control, Information, Comfort, and Safety Devices

Instrument Panel

- ☐ Turn Signal Indicator Light
- ☐ High Beam Indicator Light
- ☐ Others
 - Theft/Security Light
 - Speed Control Light
 - O/D Off
 - Driver Air Bag (SRS)
 - Side Impact
 - Airbag/Curtains
 - Air Bag Off switch (trucks)
 - Lighter



Note: Location and description for all instruments and features are located in the Vehicle Owner's Manual

Control, Information, Comfort, and Safety Devices

❑ Other Devices

- Auxiliary Power Point
- Traction Control Systems
- Active Handling Systems
- GPS/Mapping Tools
- Satellite Communication
- Digital Readouts
- Electronic Sound System
- Center Air Vents
- Dual Climate Control Systems



Note: Location and description for all instruments and features are located in the Vehicle Owner's Manual

Securing the Vehicle

- ✓ Locate a legal, safe parking place
- ✓ Stop and set parking brake
- ✓ Shift gear selector to (P)ark (Reverse in Manual Transmission)
- ✓ Close windows
- ✓ Turn off accessories
- ✓ Turn ignition switch to “off”
 - ☐ the engine should shut off at this time
- ✓ Lock ignition switch and remove key
 - ☐ required to remove the key in most vehicles
- ✓ Unfasten occupant restraints
 - ☐ some shoulder restraints operate when the door is opened



Exiting the Vehicle

✓ Check traffic flow and exit the vehicle

- ☐ Check traffic flow to rear prior to opening the door
- ☐ Be sure key is in hand
- ☐ Check door swing into lane of travel
- ☐ Rear child safety door locks may need to be opened from the driver's door
- ☐ Exit quickly to avoid conflicts with traffic
- ☐ Lock doors
- ☐ In traffic, walk toward rear of the vehicle

